

SUNDAY



HIGH LOW
86 74

Warm, humid;
storms likely

Books **D-6**
Classified **H**
Deaths **B-4**
Editorials **B-6**
Living **E**
Money **F**
Real Estate **G**
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Travel **D**



Weather, C-16



READ THE
'EARLY
EDITION'
AT 10 P.M.
In alliance with
The Times-
Picayune

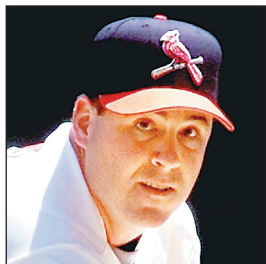
THE
Saenger



CANAL
STREET
THEATER
AS GRAND
AS EVER
AT 75
LIVING

BASEBALL GRIEVES

St. Louis pitcher
Darryl Kile found
dead in his hotel
room **SPORTS**



PORTSIDE

French investors, state working on
deal for Millennium Port land **MONEY**

The Times-Picayune

\$1.50 166th year No. 151

SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 2002

SUNDAY CITY EDITION

1918 • ANN LANDERS • 2002



Ann Landers, the influential columnist whose plain-spoken and sometimes blunt advice helped millions of readers cope with life, died Saturday. Landers, who was 83, died of multiple myeloma at her Chicago apartment. **See story, A-10**

Era of big blazes arrives in West, fire officials say

Years of containment turned forests to fuel

By **Timothy Egan**

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WINTHROP, WASH. — The fires came early this year to the West, chasing people out of valleys in Colorado, rousting animals from late slumbers in Alaska, choking the sky with smoke in Arizona woods that have so little moisture they

seem kiln-dried.

The price of holding back nature has come home, fire officials say. A century-long policy of knocking down all fires has created fuel-filled forests that burn hotter and faster than ever. The era of big fires — and with it, the need for big government to contain them — is at hand, many firefighters say. With 1.9 million acres burned by the first day of

See FIRES, A-12

► **Show Low, Ariz., townspeople ordered to evacuate, A-13**

For better or worse, Copeland embroiled in Bodenheimer case

Embattled judge heard bitter divorce

By **Martha Carr**

East Jefferson bureau



Al Copeland split with his third wife, Luan Hunter, in 2000, sparking a custody battle over their young son.

Museum of Art. Kool & the Gang and LaToya Jackson performed, a helicopter scattered rose petals on the guests, and the send-off concluded with the message "Al,

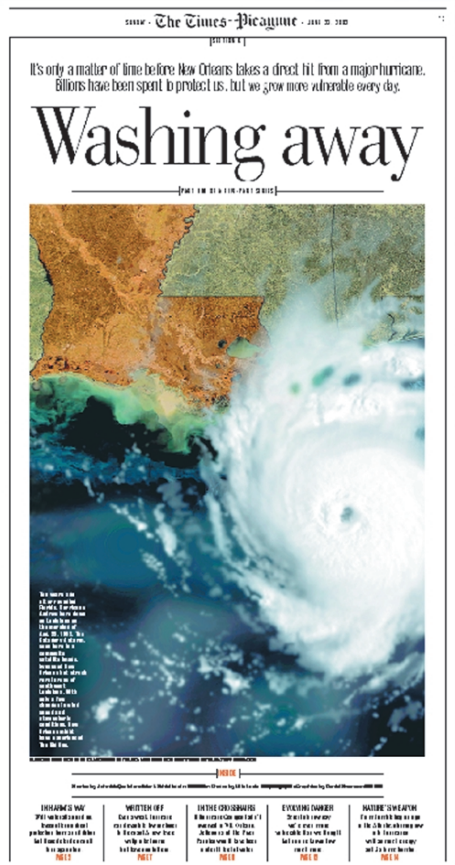
See COPELAND, A-8

HOW SOUTH LOUISIANA IS GROWING MORE VULNERABLE TO A CATASTROPHIC HURRICANE

Washing away

It's been almost 40 years since a major hurricane inundated New Orleans. Since Hurricane Betsy's storm surge poured into the city in 1965, our landscape has been sinking and our coastline disappearing. Despite billions of dollars spent on higher levees and flood control, this is no place to be when The Big One inevitably hits.

FIVE-DAY SPECIAL REPORT,
SEE SECTION J INSIDE



Stories by **John McQuaid** and **Mark Schleifstein** Staff writers
Photos by **Ellis Lucia** Staff photographer • Graphics by **Daniel Swenson** Staff artist

TODAY
IN HARM'S WAY

Our coastal marsh is sinking into the sea, giving devastating storm surges a clear path to wreak havoc on the region.

MONDAY
THE BIG ONE

Levees that protect from some storms can trap the deadly waters from others. And getting the water out could take months.

TUESDAY
COST OF EXPOSURE

The anticipated damage a major hurricane would cause is adding to the cost of doing business and living in south Louisiana.

WEDNESDAY
TEMPTING FATE

As more people settle on coasts and in other vulnerable areas, natural disasters have been getting more expensive.

THURSDAY
SOLUTIONS?

Rebuilding the coast and eliminating weak spots in levees offer the best chance of protection.

TRAGIC CODA

Musician Bran Lange leapt to his death at St. Louis Cathedral, leaving his family with many unanswered questions

By **Natalie Pompilio**
Staff writer

Playing the guitar was the best way for Bran Lange to silence the voices in his head.

That's what the gifted 24-year-old musician told his family and friends. The voices had begun whispering to him when he was 19, and he soon learned he could quell them by playing the guitar or writing. Sometimes, the voices told Lange someone was

trying to hurt him. Other times, they made him laugh out loud.

No one will ever know what they were saying on the night of May 3, when Lange climbed the scaffolding around St. Louis Cathedral and leapt to his death. He'd been released from Orleans Parish Prison a day earlier, free after spending almost two months behind bars for possession of a deadly weapon, an old knife found at the bottom of his backpack, his family said.

See LANGE, A-8



PHOTO COURTESY OF LANGE FAMILY

Bran Lange left Dayton, Ohio, and moved to New Orleans when he was 19. He was a self-taught guitarist and pianist who thought he could make a career of his musical gifts. He died May 3. Police said he jumped from scaffolding surrounding St. Louis Cathedral, and his family can't help but wonder if there was anything they could have done to help him.